

PART 1

SETUP & CONNECTIONS

AC POWER HOOKUP

Your QS6.1 is set to work with the voltage of the country it was shipped to (either 110 or 220V, 50 or 60 Hz) and comes equipped with the appropriate power cable.

Hooking that cable up is simple.

- Make sure your QS6.1 is turned off.
- Plug the female (jack) end of the power cable into the QS6.1's power socket.
- Plug the male (plug) end into a source of AC power. It's good practice *not* to turn the QS6.1 on until all other cables are hooked up.

The IEC-spec power cable included with your QS6.1 is designed to connect to an outlet with three holes, the third of which — the round one — is the ground connection. This connection is an important safety feature: it keeps the QS6.1's chassis at ground potential, preventing accidental shocks.

Unfortunately, not all three-hole sockets are properly grounded. We recommend that you use an AC line tester to check the ground connection on any socket you may use, just to be on the safe side. If you find an ungrounded outlet, consult with a licensed electrician about getting the problem fixed.



Avoid using ungrounded outlets. Plugging the QS6.1 into an ungrounded outlet can be hazardous. The same goes for "lifting" the unit off ground by using a three-to-two plug adapter. Don't do it!



Alesis cannot be responsible for any problems that might be caused by using the QS6.1 with improper AC wiring.

LINE CONDITIONERS AND PROTECTORS


The power coming through some AC lines contains voltage surges, spikes, or transients that can stress your gear, causing failure or malfunctions. Although the QS6.1 is designed to tolerate typical voltage variations, it isn't invulnerable. So if the power in your area is particularly bad (or if you are out playing live gigs) you will probably want to take precautions. You have three basic options:

- **Line spike/surge protectors.** These relatively inexpensive devices are designed to protect against strong surges and spikes. They act somewhat like fuses and will have to be either replaced or reset (depending on the unit) if they've been hit by an extremely strong spike.

- **Line filters.** These cost more than simple spike/surge protectors, but may be worth it depending on your situation. Along with surge protection they offer circuits that can remove some line noise — things like dimmer hash, transients from other appliances, etc.
- **An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).** This is the most expensive way to go, but it is also the best. Your typical UPS offers complete line protection/filtering and throws in emergency battery power that will come on instantly if there is a power outage. This will prevent anything in RAM-only memory from getting lost, and enable you to take the time to shut down everything properly. That last step is very important. You should always turn everything in your rig *physically* off when the power goes out — otherwise you risk serious gear and/or speaker damage from the current surge that takes place when power is finally restored.

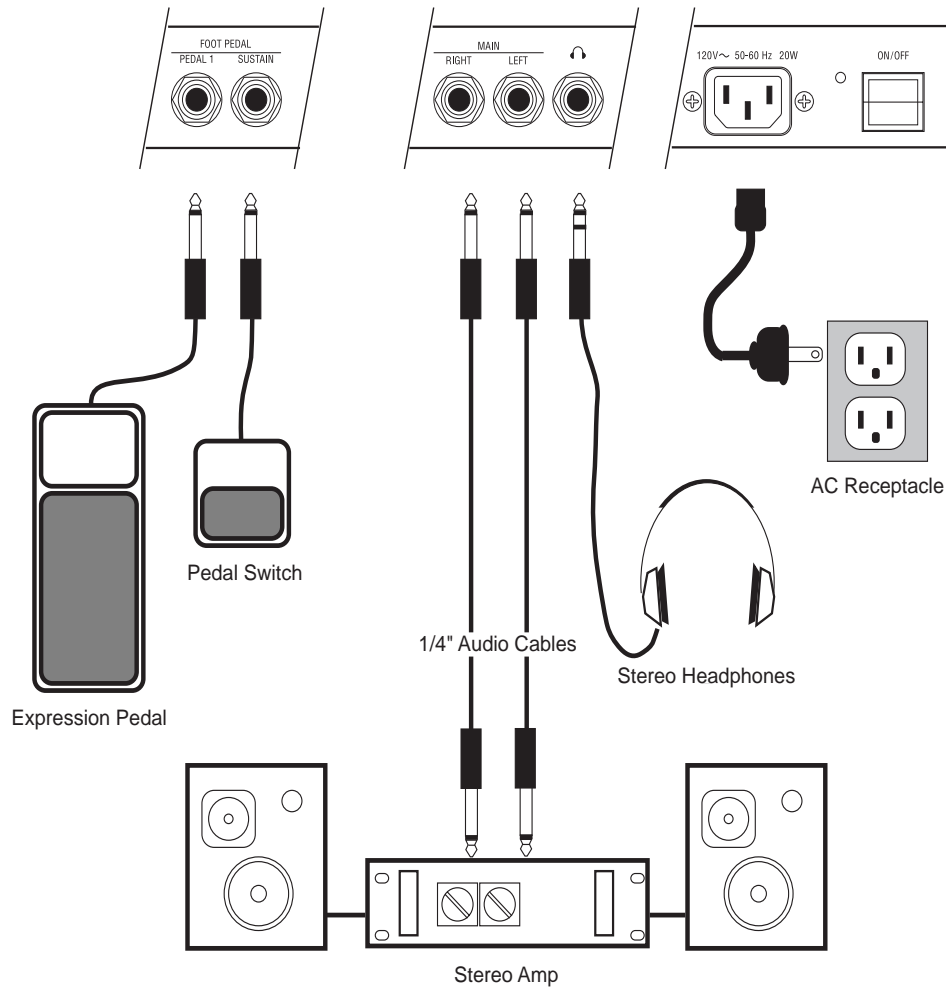
AUDIO CONNECTIONS

The QS6.1 has two Main outputs and a stereo headphone output. These make for several possible hookups:

- **Mono.** To run in mono, connect a single mono cable from one of the QS6.1's [MAIN] output jacks to either a mono amp or an individual mixer input. (You can use either the [LEFT MAIN] or the [RIGHT MAIN] output jack.) Please note that with this connection you will only be hearing one channel, so any Programs or Mixes designed for stereo output will sound incomplete or diminished.
- **Stereo.** To run in stereo, connect two mono cords (one each from the [LEFT] and [RIGHT] output jacks) to either (A) a stereo amp system or (B) two separate mixer inputs. For full effect, make sure that these inputs are panned hard left and right.
- **Stereo Headphones.** To listen over headphones, plug a set of high-quality stereo headphones into the headphones  jack on the rear panel. The volume for the headphone output is controlled by the front panel [VOLUME] slider. Some headphones have a higher electrical resistance than others; if the sound level seems too low even with the [VOLUME] slide up full, try a different set.

LEVELS

To get the highest audio quality when performing or recording, set your QS6.1's [VOLUME] slider all the way up. If the resulting signal is too loud ("hot") for your mixer or recording deck, lower the input level controls on those units until they are no longer clipping.



AUDIO CABLES — SELECTION, ROUTING, AND CARE

The audio connections between your QS6.1 and the rest of your studio are your music's lifeline, so make sure you use high-quality cables. These should be low-capacitance shielded cables, with a stranded internal conductor and a low-resistance shield. Avoid cables with solid internal conductors.

Quality cables cost more, but they are worth it. If you want the lowest possible noise and the best possible sound, there is no other way to go. As for what to do with them when setting up, here are some basic mistakes to avoid:

- Do not bundle audio cables with AC power cords. If you do, the audio cables will pick up hum from the AC line.
- Avoid running audio cables near such sources of electromagnetic interference as transformers, monitors, computers, etc.

- Don't run cables where they can be stepped on. Stepping on a cable will compress the insulation between the center conductor and shield, and over time this will degrade performance and reliability.
- Avoid twisting the cable or laying it out with sharp, right-angle turns.
- Never unplug a cable by tugging on the cable itself. Even if it has a "strain-relief" plug, you are likely to damage the inside wiring and connections. The best way to unplug a cable is to firmly grasp the body of the plug and then pull it straight outward.



When connecting audio cables, or turning power on and off, make sure that ALL devices in your system are turned off and ALL volume controls are turned down. This is important. If you don't do this, you can create loud bursts of sound that might damage your speakers (or worse, your ears).

MIDI

BASIC MIDI HOOKUP

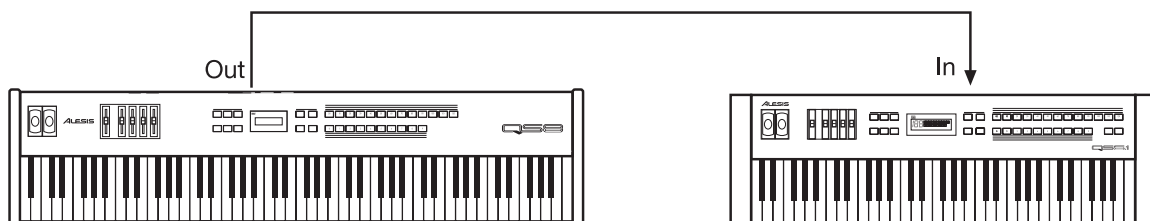
MIDI is the standard data communication protocol for electronic musical instruments. If you aren't familiar with MIDI, see *Part 5: MIDI* and *Part 10: Appendices* to learn more about how it works. Meanwhile, here's all you need to know to get wired up.

The QS6.1 has three MIDI connectors:

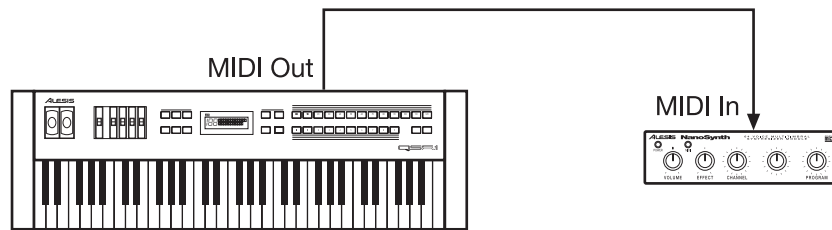
- **MIDI IN.** This port is for receiving MIDI information (notes, program changes, etc.) from another source, such as another MIDI keyboard, an alternate controller, or a computer.
- **MIDI OUT.** This port is for sending MIDI information to another MIDI keyboard, sound module, or computer.
- **MIDI THRU.** This port is for passing on MIDI information received by the MIDI IN port. In simple MIDI setups, the THRU port is used to connect additional devices that will all be "listening" to the same source.

Here are four typical MIDI setups for your QS6.1, and the appropriate cable connections for each of them:

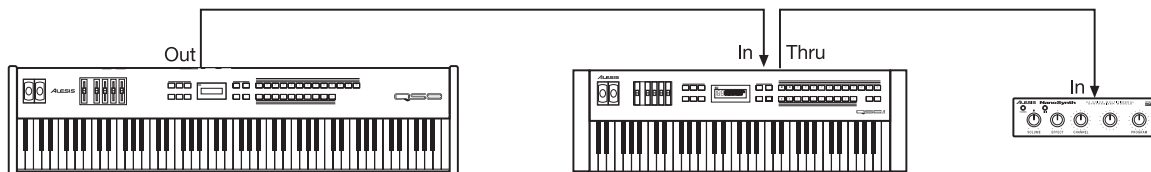
- **As Slave.** To play your QS6.1 from any other MIDI device (keyboard, drum pad, guitar or bass controller, sequencer, etc.), just run a standard 5-pin MIDI cable from the control device's MIDI OUT to the QS6.1's [MIDI IN] jack.



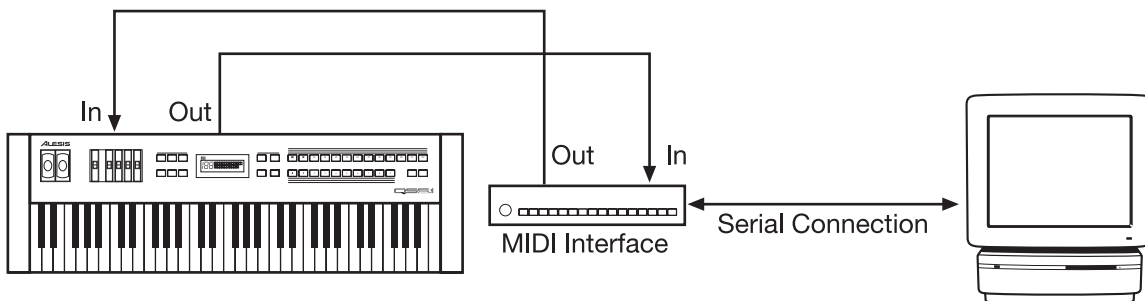
- **As Controller.** To play other MIDI devices from your QS6.1, run a MIDI cable from the QS6.1's [MIDI OUT] jack to the MIDI IN of the device you want to control.



- **As a Link in a "daisy chain."** If you are using the QS6.1 in the middle of the MIDI chain (example: as the second unit of a three device chain), you'll need two MIDI cables. Attach one from the MIDI OUT of the chain's first device to the [MIDI IN] jack of the QS6.1; and then attach the other from the QS6.1's [MIDI THRU] jack to the MIDI IN of the chain's third device.

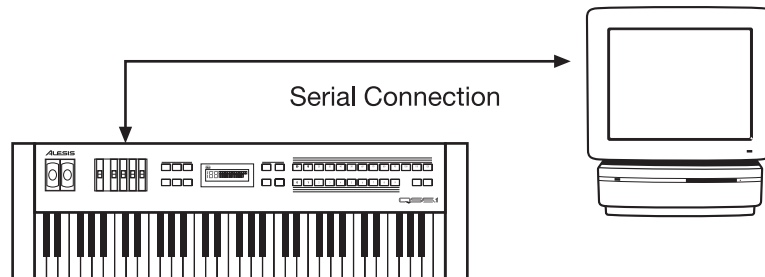


- **As part of a computer-based MIDI Network.** If you are using a computer for sequencing and/or programming, you'll want to be able to play data into your computer from your QS6.1, and receive data back as well. This will take two MIDI cables. Attach one from the MIDI OUT of the computer's MIDI interface to the [MIDI IN] jack of the QS6.1; and then attach the other from the QS6.1's [MIDI OUT] jack to the interface's MIDI IN.



DIRECT COMPUTER LINK

The QS6.1 can communicate directly with Mac or PC computers via its [SERIAL PORT] connector. Using this connection eliminates the need for a MIDI cables and a separate MIDI interface.



Here's how it works:

- 1) Run a single serial cable from your computer's serial port to the [SERIAL PORT] connector on your QS6.1.
- 2) Set the rear panel [◀ PC / MAC ▶] switch to either PC or MAC, depending on what kind of computer you are using.
- 3) Set your QS6.1 to listen to data over this direct serial connection, instead of MIDI. To do this, press [EDIT SELECT] to begin editing; then press [BANK ▶] to access Global Edit Mode; then press [◀ PAGE] until the lower line of the LCD reads I/O. (If you overshoot, just press the [PAGE ▶] button to get back.) Once there, use the [VALUE] buttons to change the setting from MIDI to whatever best matches your computer. There are three options:
 - **PC 38.4Kbd.** Use this setting if your computer is a PC and its serial port runs at 38.4 kilobaud.
 - **PC 31.25Kbd.** Use this setting if your computer is a PC and its serial port runs at 31.25 kilobaud.
 - **MAC 1MHz.** Use this setting if your computer is a Macintosh.

Please note that if the rear-panel selection switch is set to [MAC], your QS6.1 will not show you the two PC choices. Likewise, if the switch is set to [PC], then the Mac setting will not show up in the display.

IBM® PCS AND COMPATIBLES RUNNING WINDOWS®

If you want to link your QS6.1 directly with a PC or PC-Compatible, you'll need special serial driver software and cabling.

You've already got the driver software — it's in the \ALESIS\ASDWIN directory on the CD-ROM that came with your QS6.1. (If you don't have a CD-ROM drive in your computer, call Alesis Product Support and ask them to send you the software on a 3-1/2 inch floppy disk.) Complete installation instructions come with the driver software. The procedure will vary depending on your version of Windows.

The special cable can be purchased through Alesis Product Support. It has a DIN8 connector on one end and either a DB9 or DB25 connector on the other end (depending on the type of connector that is on your PC.) The DIN8-to-DB9 cable is part # 9-96-1290. The DIN8-to-DB25 cable is part # 9-96-1291.

Be aware that many PCs have more than one serial port, and some have *both types* of connector. Before you order a cable from us you will need to (A) identify the port you wish to hook up to, and (B) make certain it is not already in use by the computer.

MACINTOSH™

You don't need a special cable to make a direct connection between your QS6.1 and a Mac. Any standard Mac DIN-8 cable will do.

You will, however, have to choose between using the MODEM or PRINTER serial port on the Mac. Plug into whichever one you aren't already using, and then make sure your MIDI software's port selection is set to match.

If both ports are already in use, you can either (A) temporarily disconnect your modem or printer, or (B) buy a multiple serial port box that will let you hook everything up to your Mac and switch among these serial devices as needed.

NOTE: If you want to use the printer port for your direct serial link, first make certain that AppleTalk is disabled.

PEDAL AND FOOTSWITCH HOOKUP

The QS6.1 keyboard has two back-panel pedal jacks, marked [SUS PEDAL] and [PEDAL 1].

[SUS PEDAL] is designed to work with any standard momentary footswitch. It doesn't matter whether the footswitch is normally open or closed, so long as you plug it into the jack *before* powering up your QS6.1; the instrument will automatically sense the footswitch's polarity and calibrate itself accordingly.

[PEDAL 1] is designed to work with a Roland EV-5 volume pedal (or its equivalent).

The QS6.1's factory defaults assign sustain to the [SUS PEDAL] jack and overall instrument volume to the [PEDAL 1] jack, but you can change these settings at any time if you want to. There are lots of interesting possibilities to explore. A starter example: using a footswitch to turn vibrato on in a program, and using a volume-type pedal to control vibrato speed.

If your sustain footswitch responds backwards (i.e., notes sustain unless the footswitch is pressed), then turn off your QS6.1 and make sure the footswitch plug is fully inserted into the [SUS PEDAL] jack. When it is, turn the instrument's power back on while keeping your foot off the footswitch.